



# EIE EXPRESS

The Monthly eNewsletter for USACE Europe District's *Engineering in Europe* Magazine

Issue 48, November 2013

## AROUND EUROPE

### US, Romania begin work on MDA facility



DEVESELU AIR BASE, Romania – Top U.S., Romanian and NATO officials broke ground Oct. 28 on a new ballistic missile defense facility that's expected to boost regional stability and strengthen the alliance's security stance.

The ceremony signaled the start of construction for the Aegis Ashore complex, the second of three stages in the European Phased Adaptive Approach to ballistic missile defense. It will establish a site here for land-based SM-3 interceptors by the end of 2015.

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### Attorneys claim chief counsel awards

WIESBADEN, Germany – Two Europe District attorneys are the recipients of 2013 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief Counsel's Honorary Awards.



Nansje van Noortwijk earned the Ramon J. Powell Legal Scholarship Legacy Award, while Jay Aldridge was honored with an E. Manning Seltzer. The annual recognitions were announced in September at the USACE Worldwide Legal Services Conference in Chicago.

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### USACE: Keepers of the Eternal Flame



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can lay claim to a vast array of famous projects since the Continental Congress authorized a "Chief Engineer for the Army" on June

16, 1775: Bunker Hill fortifications, the Panama Canal, and an abundance of locks, dams and levees that help form the nation's infrastructure.

But one project helped bring solace to a grieving nation and continues to provide an iconic memory of a beloved president.

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### Message from the Commander

'Pay it forward' through STEM education



The U.S. once led the world in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, but is now significantly behind other nations. Today, only 4 percent of American college students earn undergraduate degrees in engineering, compared to 12 percent in the European Union and 33 percent in China.

The Corps of Engineers is committed to reversing this trend and increasing the number of U.S. students completing STEM-related degrees. This objective supports the Chief of Engineers' priority to "Prepare for Tomorrow" and build ready and resilient people and teams through innovative talent management and leader-development strategies and programs.

Recently, the Corps of Engineers entered a partnership with the Department of Defense Education Activity and created a program called STEM ED. It leverages the strengths of both organizations to advance STEM in our military communities. Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick said, "This is a tremendous opportunity for our engineers and scientists to pay it forward as mentors and inspire young students to pursue STEM careers. ... Making an investment now will pay dividends in the future — for the students and the nation." You can learn more about it at [www.usace.army.mil/STEMED.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/STEMED.aspx).

Europe District has a strong partnership with Wiesbaden Middle School, thanks to the volunteer efforts of many team members. Our district Leadership Development Program members have developed a plan to make STEM education fun and interesting for today's students, with the goal of inspiring our nation's next generation of engineers. Events planned this year include Engineer Week, Earth Day, Skype with Science, field trips, internships and "Take Your Child to Work Day." Our first event was Adopt a Student Day, with three students selected by essay contest. Our sixth-grade winner, Pete Greig, wrote: "I started looking for a profession that involved math, science and my imagination. ... I really want to be an engineer when I'm older because I want to help and make people's lives easier."

Our next step is to expand STEM outreach across DODDS-Europe, to every middle and high school where we have district field offices. To do this, we need more volunteers who can donate a few hours of their time to spread STEM ED in their local military community. You can pay it forward and make a difference for USACE and our nation to prepare for tomorrow. If interested, please contact your supervisor or Lt. Col. Andy Hemphill.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to our Europe District Heroes of the Battle: Sharon Lehn, Daphne Ross, Maria Goetz, Nicole Silva, Marcelo Maier and Jennifer Schmeltzle!

## SPOTLIGHT on Romania MDA Resident Office



Col. Peter Helmlinger, center, the Europe District commander, joins team members at the Oct. 28 groundbreaking ceremony for the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Complex. From left: Gabriel-Sabin Ene, Narcis Gavrilescu, Ted Falcon, Gloria Cantaragiu, Tony Jettinghoff, Robert Matei, Chris Bailey and Gabriel Enache. Not pictured: Eric Valentine.

The Romania Missile Defense Agency Resident Office is located in Deveselu, a rural town about three hours from the capital, Bucharest. The team is managing a \$134 million Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Complex construction effort. Currently, the office is comprised of four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District employees and four Romanian contractors. In the coming months, the group will expand to meet workload requirements (check [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) for opportunities to join the team).

U.S., NATO and Romanian officials officially broke ground last month on the missile-defense project. Military and civilian leaders from MDA, European Command, the Navy, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, USACE and the embassy were present to celebrate this major milestone in bringing phase two of the European Phased Adaptive Approach to ballistic missile defense to fruition under the broader NATO system.

In preparation for construction, the office managed site-activation work totaling \$3.3 million. A Romanian contractor, SC Glacial PROD SRL, constructed temporary facilities including offices, containerized housing, a warehouse and vehicle inspection area in support of the project.

In addition to the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Complex, the office will oversee the Navy's facilities and infrastructure contract. This will include the construction of a barracks, dining and medical facility; public works building, morale and welfare space, administrative office, warehouse and access control point. The Navy contract is expected to be awarded in early 2014.

The MDA project is unique, different from previous USACE work in Romania, such as the Mihail Kogalniceanu Forward Operating Site near Constanta, said Gloria Cantaragiu, a management assistant and translator.

"We are better at our jobs now," she said. "We know where we are going. This is a high-dollar-value project, and so many entities are involved."

The endeavor is large in scope and complicated, but Ted Falcon, an engineer technician, is excited for the challenge.

"This is my first time working on a missile-defense project," he said.

For Narcis Gavrilescu, a civil engineer, this assignment gives him a chance to return to his homeland while working for the U.S. government.

"This area is familiar to me. I understand the people and the language," he said. "Thanks for sending me here."

The team is able to interface with the Romanian military, MDA and other government agencies, said Chris Bailey, a civil engineer. In addition to gaining great work experience, Bailey appreciates the Romanian culture.

"We enjoy good food at a good price," he said. "And there are lots of nice places to travel, like Brasov — it's an untouched area."

### WORK WITH USACE

Satellite Communications Center  
Landstuhl, Germany  
Solicitation Number:  
W912GB-14-R-0002

Aegis Ashore Navy facilities  
Deveselu, Romania  
Solicitation Number:  
W912GB-14-R-0003

MATOC contracts  
Throughout Germany  
Solicitation Number:  
W912GB-14-R-0014

*Click announcement or visit [FBO.gov](http://FBO.gov)  
for more solicitations.*

### NAU in the News

- [AFN Naples, Deveselu ballistic missile defense site groundbreaking — news report](#)
- [Stars and Stripes, US, NATO move ahead with Romanian anti-missile base — article](#)
- [Africa Command, US, Ghana combat malnutrition with new center — article](#)

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## WATCH: A snapshot of Europe District in fiscal year 2013

### Operations Security

#### Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month

November has been designed as Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month to recognize the importance of strengthening the nation's infrastructure resources while enhancing homeland security and resilience, according to a memo from the Office of Infrastructure Protection.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're reminded of how much we depend on critical infrastructure. We know it as the power we use in our homes, the water we drink, the transportation that moves us, and the communication systems we rely on to stay in touch with friends and family. Throughout the year, the nation's critical infrastructure provides the essential services and functions that underpin our society. Ensuring their delivery is key to sustaining the American way of life.

As we acknowledge the role of critical infrastructure in our everyday lives, securing it against growing and evolving threats — both physical and cyber — requires a layered approach with effort and investment from both the federal government and private sector.

The threat's evolving nature, as well as the maturation of that work and partnership with the private sector, has necessitated shifting from a focus on asset protection to overarching system resilience against all threats and hazards. There's a need for holistic thinking about security risk management and action toward a whole-of-community approach to security and resilience.

To learn more about Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month and what you can do to get involved, visit [www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience-month](http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience-month).

### Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

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